

REMARKS

The Office Action alleged that claims 1-10 and 17-20 (Claim Group I) are directed to an invention that is patentably distinct from claims 11-16 and 21-26 (Claim Group II). Applicants hereby elect Claim Group I (Claims 1-10 and 17-20) for continued prosecution. This election is made **with traverse**.

In this regard, a previous (substantive) Office Action was mailed on October 6, 2003, and Applicants fully responded to that Office Action. In view of the fact that all claims have already been searched and substantively considered by the Patent Office, the present restriction requirement is untimely, and is traversed for this reason.

As set forth in the MPEP, one basis for advancing a restriction requirement, is that the claims are so distinct as to require searching in multiple classifications and art areas. The searching in this application has already been performed, and the restriction is untimely for at least this reason.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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